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WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR IDAHO



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JUN 24 1976
ON
CURRENT RECORDS

U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Collaborating with

IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF WATER ADMINISTRATION

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation with Federal, State and private organizations listed inside the back cover of this report.

AS OF
JUNE 1, 1976

TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a continuous record of snow water and other parameters at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

COVER PHOTO: *SURVEYOR ENROUTE TO THE MT. BALDY ARIZONA SNOW COURSE*
SCS PHOTO AZ-5460

PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, West Technical Service Center, Room 111, 511 N.W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	204 E. 5th. Ave., Room 217, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	P. O. Box 17107, Denver, Colorado 80217
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 98, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1220 S.W. Third Ave., Portland, Oregon 97204
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84138
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82601

PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR IDAHO

and
FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

Issued by

R.M. DAVIS
ADMINISTRATOR
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

|||||
Released by

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STATE CONSERVATIONIST
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
BOISE, IDAHO

In Cooperation with

R. KEITH HIGGINSON
DIRECTOR
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

|||||
Report prepared by

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SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
SNOW SURVEY SECTION
ROOM 345, 304 N. 8th. ST.
BOISE, IDAHO 83702

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK for IDAHO



JUNE 1, 1976

SNOW SURVEYS, SUPPLEMENTAL MEASUREMENTS AND CORRECTIONS

Water supplies are forecast to be adequate throughout Idaho for the 1976 irrigation season.

Reservoir storage is good to excellent with all major reservoirs expected to fill by the time high irrigation demand begins.

In general, May precipitation was below normal and temperatures were slightly warmer than average. A quite normal snowmelt has been experienced resulting in an orderly runoff with only minor flooding in localized areas.

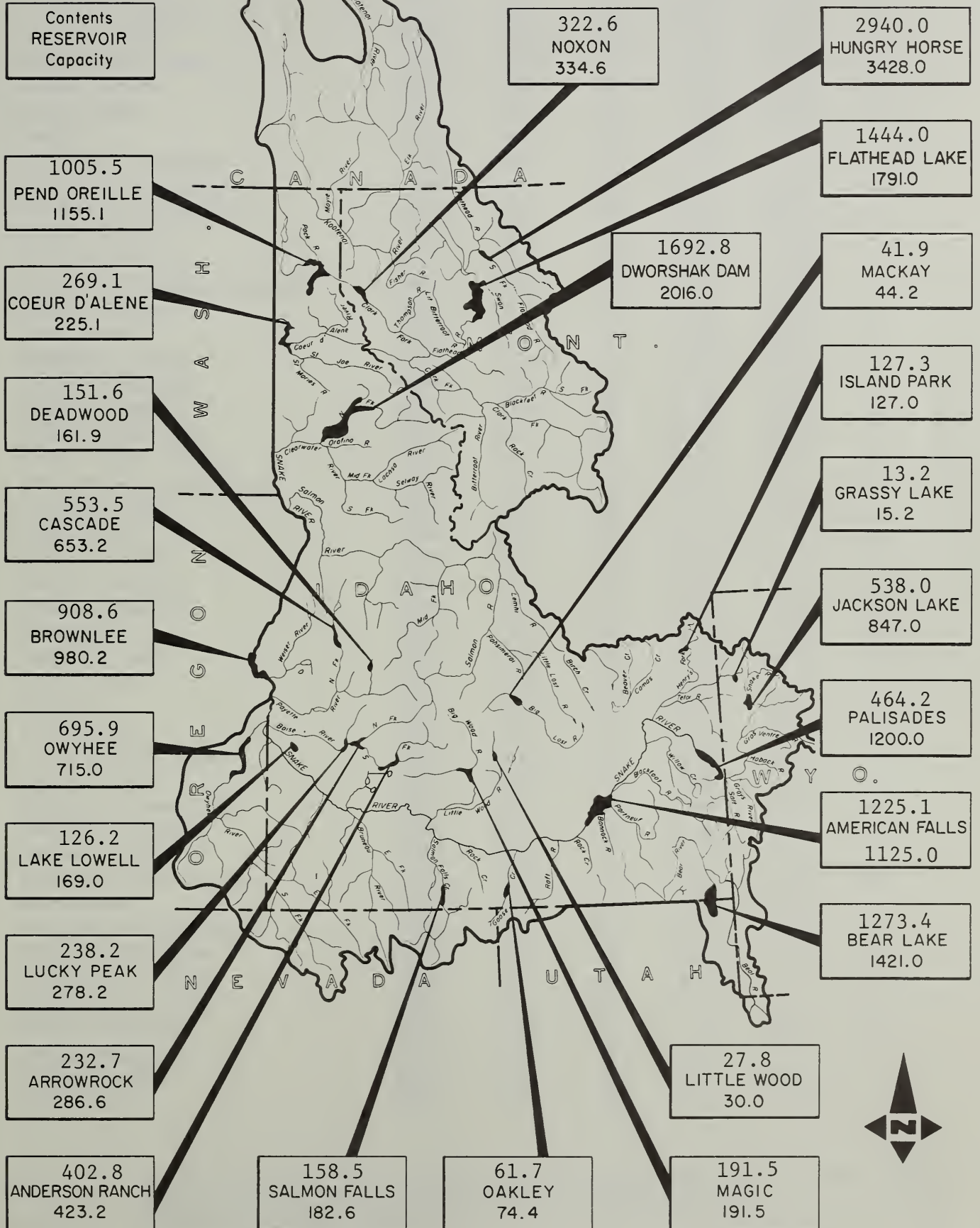
This report carries June 1, and supplemental and corrected measurements made earlier in the season.

RESERVOIR STORAGE

USABLE CONTENTS (1,000 Acre Feet)

JUNE 1, 1976

50 0 50 100 150
SCALE IN MILES



SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	
NAME	Elevation				Last Year	Average ^b

JUNE 1, 1976 MEASUREMENTS

Aspen Grove	6600	6/1	0	0.0	7.2	--
Atlanta Summit	7500	6/1	33	16.6	41.4	--
Bear Canyon	7920	5/26	T	0.0	15.2	--
Big Creek Summit	6600	5/28	33	17.3	39.8	--
Birch Creek	6800	6/1	0	0.0	1.4	--
Blue Ridge	6775	6/1	0	0.0	10.3	--
Bone	6200	6/1	0	0.0	--	--
Brockman Station	6430	6/1	0	0.0	--	--
Brundage Mountain	7560	6/1	49	25.2	52.8	--
Coolwater Mountain	6200	6/7	30	12.8	36.2	--
Copper Basin	7650	5/26	0	0.0	5.5	--
Crater Meadows	6100	6/7	27	17.0	46.8	--
Crawford Ranger Station	4800	5/28	0	0.0	0.0	--
Darby Canyon	8250	6/1	11	4.9	28.6	--
Elk Butte	5550	6/7	0	0.0	23.6	--
Fishpole Lake	9350	5/26	27	10.9	25.2	--
Freds Mountain	8000	6/1	20	9.0	28.1	--
Galena Summit	8795	5/26	35	14.9	33.9	--
Garns Mountain	8300	6/1	66	36.1	48.0	--
Goat Lake	6600	6/7	56	26.5	51.8	--
Graham Guard Station	5690	6/1	0	0.0	--	--
Granite Peak	6000	6/7	50	21.6	42.1	--
Hell Creek	7100	6/1	0	0.0	--	--
Hemlock Butte	5500	6/7	47	20.2	47.2	--
Henry Creek	5650	6/1	0	0.0	--	--
Indian Meadows	8200	6/1	61	32.2	47.2	--
Jackpine	7500	6/1	10	4.8	27.6	--
Jackson Peak	7000	6/1	0	0.0	35.6	--
Lake Fork	6000	5/28	0	0.0	5.5	--
Lookout	5250	5/26	31	14.6	28.8	--
Lost Lake	6000	6/7	77	35.4	58.2	--
Lost-Wood Divide	7900	5/26	14	5.8	21.4	--
Mascot Mine	7900	5/26	T	0.0	10.9	--
McRenold Reservoir	6800	6/1	0	0.0	20.9	--
Medicine Ridge	6150	6/7	52	22.8	43.4	--
Miles Creek	7500	6/1	0	0.0	9.2	--
Moore's Creek Summit	6100	5/25	34	17.2	33.0	8.1
Mud Creek	7150	6/1	0	0.0	10.3	--
Orogrande Mountain	7800	6/7	80	35.0	53.6	--
Pine Creek Pass	6750	6/1	0	0.0	9.3	--
Schweitzer Bowl	4500	5/27	0	0.0	--	--
Schweitzer Ridge	6100	5/27	50	24.0	--	--
Secesh Summit	6600	5/28	15	7.4	36.2	--
Sheep Mountain	6510	6/1	0	0.0	--	--
Squaw Meadow	5800	5/28	0	0.0	35.6	--
State Line	6400	6/1	0	0.0	6.4	--

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. * Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Elevation				Last Year	Average ^b

Stickney Mill	7500	5/26	0	0.0	0.0	--
Tex Creek	6700	6/1	0	0.0	--	--
Trinity Mountain	7780	5/27	32	16.6	49.6	--
Vienna Mine	8960	6/1	45	22.4	45.0	--

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. * Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Elevation				Last Year	Average ⁶

SUPPLEMENTAL MEASUREMENTSDECEMBER 1, 1975

Willow Flat	6100	12/2	27	5.5	--	--
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JANUARY 15, 1976

Atlanta Summit	7500	1/13	82	20.5	15.6	--
Bad Bear	5500	1/13	52	12.4	--	--
Bogus Basin	6120	1/14	60	15.5	--	--
Bogus Basin Road	5360	1/14	34	5.2	--	--
Graham Guard Station	5690	1/13	53	10.8	--	--
Jackson Peak	7000	1/13	76	19.7	--	--
Moore's Creek Summit	6100	1/13	96	24.1	--	--
Mount Baldy	9000	1/15	44	10.2	8.4	--
Trinity Mountain	7780	1/13	87	23.4	--	--
Vienna Mine	8960	1/13	84	21.7	--	--

FEBRUARY 1, 1976

Darby Canyon	8250	2/6	60	20.8	13.1	--
Garns Mountain	8300	2/6	97	36.2	19.6	--
Indian Meadows	8240	2/6	95	34.3	19.0	--
Jackpine Creek	7350	2/6	67	22.0	13.3	--
McRenolds Reservoir	6800	2/6	62	18.6	12.6	--
Miles Creek	7300	2/6	39	11.0	8.0	--

FEBRUARY 15, 1976

Above Burke	4100	2/13	58	17.8	--	--
Atlanta Summit	7500	2/12	68	22.9	27.2	--
Bad Bear	5500	2/12	41	12.5	13.2	--
Bogus Basin	6120	2/13	53	17.7	20.8	--
Bogus Basin Road	5360	2/13	15	5.2	10.4	--
Galena	7300	2/13	40	11.8	17.8	--
Galena Summit	8795	2/13	53	15.8	21.2	--
Graham Guard Station	5690	2/16	58	14.1	16.3	--
Jackson Peak	7000	2/12	68	23.5	25.0	--
Moore's Creek Summit	6100	2/13	79	27.4	27.8	--
Mount Baldy	9000	2/13	42	11.4	16.1	16.4
Trinity Mountain	7780	2/17	92	30.9	34.5	--

MARCH 1, 1976

Cayuse Airstrip	3700	3/8	43	13.0	13.6	11.7
Crater Meadows	6100	3/8	120	39.2	37.8	40.9*
Elk Butte	5550	3/8	111	34.7	33.3	35.0*
Forty-nine Meadows	4880	3/8	89	24.8	25.8	28.4*

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. * Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Elevation				Last Year	Average ^b

MARCH 1 1976 (Cont'd)

Goat Lake	6600	3/8	130	42.0	38.6	43.8*
Granite Peak	6000	3/8	120	36.0	34.4	37.7*
Hemlock Butte	5500	3/8	144	46.2	42.8	42.8*
Lost Lake	6000	3/8	152	49.0	45.6	51.3*
Medicine Ridge	5920	3/8	134	39.8	35.8	38.5*
Shanghai Summit	4600	3/8	82	24.8	26.6	24.5*

MARCH 15, 1976

Atlanta Summit	7500	3/15	90	28.0	32.2	--
Bad Bear	5500	3/16	53	18.8	--	--
Bogus Basin	6120	3/15	72	24.5	25.5	--
Bogus Basin Road	5360	3/15	18	5.4	--	--
Fourth of July Summit	3200	3/11	37	12.6	--	--
Galena	7300	3/15	58	17.3	18.9	--
Galena Summit	8795	3/15	72	22.6	23.7	--
Graham Guard Station	5690	3/15	60	17.3	19.4	--
Jackson Peak	7000	3/15	86	29.0	28.8	--
Lookout	5250	3/12	103	34.6	36.5	--
Moores Creek Summit	6100	3/16	97	33.9	32.8	--
Mount Baldy	9000	3/15	58	16.0	17.7	19.7
Prairie	4900	3/14	35	9.9	6.5	--
Sherwin	3200	3/15	52	16.2	18.6	14.2
Trinity Mountain	7780	3/15	100	36.6	41.3	--
Vienna Mine	8960	3/15	94	32.7	33.3	--

APRIL 15, 1976

Atlanta Summit	7500	4/17	85	34.8	45.9	--
Bad Bear	5500	4/16	36	13.0	18.5	--
Bogus Basin	6120	4/15	70	22.7	36.9	--
Bogus Basin Road	5360	4/15	8	0.8	12.5	--
Galena	7300	4/15	49	15.7	24.2	--
Galena Summit	8795	4/15	76	26.4	34.0	--
Graham Guard Station	5690	4/17	35	13.7	--	--
Jackson Peak	7000	4/17	86	35.8	37.7	--
Lookout	5120	4/15	99	37.5	--	--
Moores Creek	6100	4/16	96	39.6	42.5	31.7
Mount Baldy	9000	4/16	68	18.6	25.2	--
Prairie	4900	4/15	0	0.0	7.5	--
Trinity Mountain	7780	4/17	94	43.1	57.0	--
Vienna Mine	8960	4/17	90	39.0	46.7	--

MAY 15, 1976

Aspen Grove	6600	5/12	0	0.0	15.2	--
Atlanta Summit	7500	5/14	60	27.7	50.3	--

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. * Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

SNOW

V

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Elevation				Last Year	Average ^b

MAY 15, 1976 (Cont'd)

Birch Creek	6800	5/12	0	0.0	15.9	--
Blue Ridge	6800	5/12	9	3.8	23.5	--
Bogus Basin	6120	5/14	22	9.5	38.5	--
Bone	6200	5/12	0	0.0	--	--
Brockman Station	6430	5/12	0	0.0	7.4	--
Hell Creek	7100	5/12	6	2.5	15.4	--
Henry Creek	5650	5/12	0	0.0	--	--
Jackson Peak	7000	5/14	58	25.2	43.2	--
Lookout	5250	5/14	54	24.8	41.0	--
Mud Creek	7150	5/12	24	9.8	22.1	--
Sheep Mountain	6510	5/12	0	0.0	9.2	--
Tex Creek	6550	5/12	0	0.0	11.0	--
Trinity Mountain	7780	5/13	67	32.1	57.2	--
Vienna Mine	8960	5/14	73	33.3	51.7	--

CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED 1976 DATAJANUARY 1, 1976

Mascot Mine	7900	12/29	20	4.8	2.1	--
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FEBRUARY 1, 1976

Crater Meadows	6100	1/29	100	31.8	29.1	31.2*
Moose Creek	6200	2/2	48	15.0	16.9	11.8

MARCH 1, 1976

Antelope Ridge	5900	3/3	23	5.6	--	6.1*
Darby Canyon	8250	3/3	80	26.2	18.5	--

APRIL 1, 1976

Below Roland	3770	4/2	56	20.3	20.2	17.4*
Orogrande Mountain	7800	4/5	122	41.6	38.5	40.6*
Smith Creek	4800	4/2	134	47.1	55.4	49.1
Sunset	5600	4/2	118	43.6	41.8	39.3*

MAY 1, 1976

Copper Ridge	4800	4/28	62	28.4	31.0	27.3
Fourth of July	3200	4/27	9	3.2	5.5	--
Moose Creek	6200	5/5	45	18.2	25.4	16.0*
White Knob	7700	5/1	28	8.6	--	--

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. * Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

Agencies and Organizations Cooperating in Idaho Snow Surveys

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

States:

Idaho Department of Water Resources
State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game
University of Idaho
Idaho State University
Montana Agricultural Experiment Station
Montana State Water Conservation Board
Montana Cooperative Snow Surveys
Nevada Cooperative Snow Surveys
Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station
Oregon Cooperative Snow Surveys
Oregon State Engineer and Corps of
State Watermasters
Utah Cooperative Snow Surveys
Wyoming Cooperative Snow Surveys

Federal:

U.S. Army Engineers

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Agricultural Research Service
Statistical Reporting Service

U.S. Department of Commerce
NOAA, National Weather Service

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bonneville Power Administration
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
Water Resources Division, Geological Survey
National Park Service
Bureau of Land Management

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Montana Power Company
Washington Water Power Company
Idaho Power Company
Utah Power and Light Company

ORGANIZED PUBLIC AGENCIES

Big Lost River Irrigation District
Blaine Soil Conservation District
Boise Project Board of Control
Idaho Water District #01
Little Wood River Irrigation District
Mann Creek Irrigation District
Salmon Falls Creek Irrigation Company
Twin Falls Soil Conservation District
Big Wood Irrigation Company
Owyhee Project - North & South Board of Control

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